

REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated June 23, 2004. Claims 16, 17, 20-26, 34, and 36-50 are pending in the application. Claims 34, 36, 37, and 41 are allowed. Claims 16, 20-25, 38-40, and 42-50 are rejected. Claims 17 and 26 are objected to.

Claims 17 and 26 are amended. Claims 16, 20-25, 38-40, and 42-50 are canceled, without prejudice. In view of the amendments above, and the remarks below, applicant respectfully suggests the application is in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 16 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Linden (Netherlands Patent no. 8802627). Without acknowledging the propriety of the rejection, applicant has canceled claims 16 and 21-22, and therefore suggests that the rejection is rendered moot.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in a continuing application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 20, 23, 25, 38-40, 42-48, and 49-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Linden. Without acknowledging the propriety of the rejection, Applicant has canceled claims 20, 23, 25, 38-40, and 49-50, and therefore suggests that the rejection is rendered moot.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in a continuing application.

Claim Objections

Claims 17 and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claims 17 and 26 to incorporate the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. In view of the above amendment, applicant suggests that claims 17 and 26 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objection to claims 17 and 26.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 34, 36-37, and 41 are in condition for allowance. In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowability be issued with respect to claims 17, 26, 34, 36-37, and 41.

If there are any questions regarding this paper, or the application as a whole, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney so that allowance of the claims can be facilitated.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on September 8, 2004.

Suzanne Lukas-Werner

Date of Signature: September 21, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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